

IN THE CLAIMS:

Amend claims 1 and 9, cancel claims 7, 8, 13-20, 25, 26 and 31-36 without prejudice or admission, and add new claims 37-50 as shown in the following listing of claims, which replaces all previous listings and versions of claims.

1. (currently amended) A semiautomatic handgun comprising: a frame; a barrel mounted on the frame and having ~~tubular portion defining a chamber for receiving a cartridge, a peripheral wall portion extending from the chamber, a cylindrical portion forming a front terminal end of the barrel,~~ and a generally conical portion disposed between and contiguous with ~~the tubular portion each of the peripheral wall portion and the cylindrical portion;~~ a slide mounted on the frame and over the barrel and longitudinally movable relative to the slide frame and the barrel; a firing mechanism for striking the cartridge; and a trigger for releasing the firing mechanism.

2. (previously submitted) A semiautomatic handgun according to claim 1; wherein the semiautomatic handgun is a 9 mm semiautomatic handgun.

3. (previously submitted) A semiautomatic handgun according to claim 1; wherein the semiautomatic handgun has a length of about 5.05 inches, a height of about 4.04 inches, and a thickness of about 0.812 inches.

4. (previously submitted) A semiautomatic handgun according to claim 3; wherein the semiautomatic handgun is a 9 mm semiautomatic handgun.

5. (previously submitted) A semiautomatic handgun according to claim 4; wherein the semiautomatic handgun has an unloaded weight of about 12.9 ounces.

6. (previously submitted) A semiautomatic handgun according to claim 3; wherein the semiautomatic handgun has an unloaded weight in the range of about 12.0 to 12.5 ounces.

7. - 8. (canceled).

9. (currently amended) A semiautomatic handgun according to claim 1; wherein the firing mechanism comprises a firing pin, and the trigger is pivotally mounted on the frame for movement between a rest position and a depressed position; and further comprising a hammer pivotally mounted on the frame in spaced relation to the trigger for driving the firing pin to strike the cartridge, a trigger bar pivotally connected to the trigger and extending into operative relation with the hammer for cocking the hammer when the trigger is moved to the

depressed position, and a biasing member having a first end connected to the frame and a second end connected to the trigger bar for biasing the trigger bar in a direction into operative relationship with the hammer and in a direction for returning the trigger to the rest position from the depressed position.

10. (previously submitted) A semiautomatic handgun according to claim 9; wherein the frame has a first boss and a second boss adjacent the first boss; and wherein the biasing member comprises a torsion spring having a first loop portion encircling the first boss of the frame, a second loop portion extending from the first loop portion at the first end of the torsion spring and resting on the second boss of the frame, at least one coil, and a foot portion connected to the coil at the second end of the torsion spring and connected to the trigger bar.

11. (previously submitted) A semiautomatic handgun according to claim 10; wherein the torsion spring has a first arm connecting the coil to the foot portion and a second arm connecting the coil to the first loop portion.

12. (previously submitted) A semiautomatic handgun according to claim 10; wherein the semiautomatic handgun has a length in the range of about 4.9 to 5.2 inches, a height in

the range of about 3.9 to 4.1 inches, and a thickness in the range of about 0.75 to 0.82 inches.

13. - 20. (canceled).

21. (previously submitted) A semiautomatic handgun comprising: a frame; a trigger pivotally mounted on the frame for movement between a rest position and a depressed position; a hammer pivotally mounted on the frame in spaced relation to the trigger; a trigger bar pivotally connected to the trigger and extending into operative relation with the hammer for cocking the hammer when the trigger is moved to the depressed position; and a biasing member having a first end connected to the frame and a second end connected to the trigger bar for biasing the trigger bar in a direction into operative relationship with the hammer and in a direction for returning the trigger to the rest position from the depressed position; wherein the semiautomatic handgun has a length of about 4.7 inches, a height of about 3.6 inches, and a thickness of about 0.94 inches.

22. (previously submitted) A semiautomatic handgun according to claim 21; wherein the semiautomatic handgun is a 9 mm semiautomatic handgun.

23. (previously submitted) A semiautomatic handgun according to claim 22; wherein the semiautomatic handgun has an unloaded weight of about 12.3 ounces.

24. (previously submitted) A semiautomatic handgun according to claim 21; wherein the semiautomatic handgun has an unloaded weight in the range of about 12.0 to 12.5 ounces.

25. - 26. (canceled).

27. (previously submitted) A semiautomatic handgun comprising: a frame having a forward end, a rear end, a first locating recess disposed between the forward end and the rear end, and a second locating recess disposed at the rear end; a trigger pivotally mounted in the first locating recess of the frame for movement between a rest position and a depressed position; a hammer pivotally mounted in the second locating recess of the frame; a trigger bar pivotally connected to the trigger and movable in a first direction toward the first locating recess of the frame in response to depression of the trigger to operatively engage the hammer for cocking the hammer; a biasing member for biasing the trigger bar in a second direction away from the first locating recess and into operative relationship with the hammer and for returning the trigger to the rest position from the depressed position; and a deflector for deflecting the trigger bar in a direction generally transverse to the first and second directions when

the trigger is returned by the biasing member to the rest position from the depressed position; wherein the semiautomatic handgun has a length of about 4.7 inches, a height of about 3.6 inches, and a thickness of about 0.94 inches.

28. (previously submitted) A semiautomatic handgun according to claim 27; wherein the semiautomatic handgun is a 9 mm semiautomatic handgun.

29. (previously submitted) A semiautomatic handgun according to claim 28; wherein the semiautomatic handgun has an unloaded weight of about 12.3 ounces.

30. (previously submitted) A semiautomatic handgun according to claim 27; wherein the semiautomatic handgun has an unloaded weight in the range of about 12.0 to 12.5 ounces.

31. - 36 (canceled).

37. (new) A semiautomatic handgun according to claim 1; wherein the conical portion has a tapered surface disposed at an angle in the range of about 9.5 to 10.5 degrees relative to the peripheral wall portion.

38. (new) A semiautomatic handgun according to claim 1; wherein the conical portion has a tapered surface decreasing from the front terminal end of the barrel toward the chamber.

39. (new) A semiautomatic handgun comprising: a frame; a barrel mounted on the frame and having a chamber for receiving a cartridge; a slide mounted on the frame and over the barrel and longitudinally movable relative to the frame and the barrel; a firing mechanism for striking the cartridge; and a trigger for releasing the firing mechanism; wherein the semiautomatic handgun has an overall length of about 5.05 inches, an overall height of about 4.04 inches, and an overall thickness of about 0.812 inches.

40. (new) A semiautomatic handgun according to claim 39; wherein the barrel has a conical front end portion.

41. (new) A semiautomatic handgun according to claim 40; wherein the barrel has a generally cylindrical portion contiguous with the conical front end portion and forming a front terminal end of the barrel.

42. (new) A semiautomatic handgun comprising: a frame having a first boss and a second boss adjacent the first boss;

a barrel mounted on the frame and having a chamber for receiving a cartridge;

a slide mounted on the frame and over the barrel and longitudinally movable relative to the frame and the barrel;

a firing pin for striking the cartridge;

a trigger for releasing the firing, the trigger being pivotally mounted on the frame for movement between a rest position and a depressed position;

a hammer pivotally mounted on the frame in spaced relation to the trigger for driving the firing pin to strike the cartridge;

a trigger bar pivotally connected to the trigger and extending into operative relation with the hammer for cocking the hammer when the trigger is moved to the depressed position; and

a torsion spring having a first end connected to the frame, a second end connected to the trigger bar for biasing the trigger bar in a direction into operative relationship with the hammer and in a direction for returning the trigger to the rest position from the depressed position, a first loop portion encircling the first boss of the frame, a second loop portion extending from the first loop portion at the first end of the torsion spring and resting on the second boss of the frame, at least one coil, and a foot portion

connected to the coil at the second end of the torsion spring and connected to the trigger bar.

43. (new) A semiautomatic handgun comprising: a frame; a barrel mounted on the frame and having a chamber for receiving a cartridge and having a front end; a firing mechanism for striking the cartridge during a firing sequence of the semiautomatic handgun; a slide mounted on the frame and over the barrel and longitudinally movable relative to the frame and the barrel, the slide having a hole having a front open end through which the front end of the barrel passes during a firing sequence of the semiautomatic handgun; and means for facilitating the front end of the barrel to pass through the front open end of the hole of the slide during a firing sequence of the semiautomatic handgun.

44. (new) A semiautomatic handgun according to claim 43; wherein the means for facilitating comprises a truncated conical portion of the barrel disposed at the front end thereof.

45. (new) A semiautomatic handgun according to claim 44; wherein the truncated conical portion has a tapered surface decreasing from the front end of the barrel toward the chamber.

46. (new) A semiautomatic handgun according to claim 44; wherein the barrel has a cylindrical portion contiguous with the truncated conical portion and forming a front terminal end of the barrel.

47. (new) A semiautomatic handgun according to claim 46; wherein the truncated conical portion has a tapered surface disposed at an angle in the range of about 9.5 to 10.5 degrees relative to the peripheral wall portion.

48. (new) A semiautomatic handgun according to claim 43; wherein the semiautomatic handgun is a 9 mm semiautomatic handgun.

49. (new) A semiautomatic handgun according to claim 43; wherein the semiautomatic handgun has a length of about 5.05 inches, a height of about 4.04 inches, and a thickness of about 0.812 inches.

50. (new) A semiautomatic handgun according to claim 43; wherein the semiautomatic handgun has an unloaded weight in the range of about 12.0 to 12.9 ounces.